

Women's Clubs

Last week a subscriber, signing herself "Physician," ordered "The Helena Independent" stopped on account of the editor's attack on woman's suffrage. To the latter's reply we would like to append the noble words of Keir Hardie, to throw the capitalistic and socialistic views of women's rights in contrast.

Below follows the "Independent's" article:

"We presume that 'Physician' is a woman. If the majority of women were physicians, lawyers, preachers, journalists, spinsters or childless wives, we would rush to the rescue of the cause of woman suffrage with all the zeal and as much of pomp as a dignified newspaper could muster.

"But, unhappily for the cause of 'woman's rights' the majority of women are wives, mothers, housewives or outside the ranks of professions. Most of them are yet dependent and, we believe, most of them don't want woman suffrage anyhow.

"In the state of Oregon a third attempt has been made to graft woman suffrage upon the constitution of the state and for the third time it failed. The principal cause of this defeat was the vigorous opposition set up by an Oregon association of 'Women in Opposition to the Extension of Woman Suffrage.' They flooded the state with circulars urging the defeat of the proposed amendment in the following cogent words:

"The home women are now charged with the duties and responsibilities appropriate to women's sphere, which are exceedingly important. These duties are quite sufficient to engross their attention without the added responsibilities of politics, jury service and other public duties from which women are now exempt.

"These burdens should not be imposed upon the women of Oregon at the instance of female agitators from distant states where the people are too sensible to adopt woman's suffrage. Do not mistake their clamor for the sentiment of the home-loving women of Oregon.

"The present laws are not unjust to women and we believe the men of the state are willing at all times that the law shall do full justice to womankind. Be sure to vote 'No' on this proposition and protect the home life of the state."

"No just or prudent newspaper would oppose woman suffrage if it were convinced or aware that the majority of women wished it, but the vigorous and futile attempts of the women suffragists themselves have in recent years resulted only in further demonstrating the fact that it is the opposition of the home-keeping women and not the opposition of the men that has generally defeated the cause."

In contrast with this democrat paper and the spirit displayed by those poor dupes struggling against a broader environment come the strong, noble words of the socialist leader, Keir Hardie:

"To those who are opposed on principle to women having the votes at all, I have little to say. These I find easier to pity than to reason with. In the English colonies women are voters, but they have not, because of that ceased to be wives or mothers. Their outlook on life has been broadened by the possession of the vote which forces them to interest themselves in political and social questions. They are thus in a fair way to become better companions of their husbands and—I say this with deep conviction—better mothers. A woman whose circle of interests is circumscribed by her pots, pans and scrubbing brushes, varied by an occasional gossip with a neighbor or a quarrel with her husband can never, however affectionate, be other than a curb upon the opening, eagerly questioning intelligence of her children. Broaden the outlook of the mother, and you open a new world for children to grow in, and bind many a wild, wayward youth to his home life who is now driven out into the hard world for lack of that sympathetic companionship which an educated and enlightened mother can alone supply.

"The 'half angel, half idiot' period is over in the woman's world. She is fighting her way into every sphere of human activity. Her labor is coming into competition with that of man in nearly every department of industry. Women should insist upon political equality, whatever the conditions of equality may be."

Let us add a word in refutation to the "Independent's" arguments.

It opposes woman's suffrage on the grounds that the majority of the women don't want suffrage.

What right, we will ask, has the majority of women because they think they don't want a thing, to keep the minority from having it? Does this fact constitute a reason for denying any intelligent law abiding human being from exercising his or her franchise if he or she desire it?

Since the home-wrecking privilege of voting would not be obligatory on the

National News

Local Cleveland, Ohio, reports a membership of nearly a thousand.

The Buffalo socialists have won the legal right to the use of the streets.

Local Philadelphia sold 530 dues stamps in June as against 370 for June last year.

Four up-state speakers are at work in New York and four more will soon be employed.

New York up-state organizers report larger and more enthusiastic meetings than ever before.

It is estimated that over 4,500 people listened to socialism in sixteen street meetings recently in Pennsylvania.

According to the capitalist exchanges the picnic at Schlitz Park, Milwaukee, drew from eight to twenty thousand people—the largest ever held.

Tennessee now has a state organization, Comrade J. T. McDill, 469 Humphrey st., Nashville, is the secretary. He also conducts the Socialist column in the "Labor Advocate." The movement in Tennessee is growing rapidly in the highly developed industrial districts.

Herbert Casson, who left the socialist movement years ago and became an opponent, later writing a book on unionism which practically denies the socialist position has written a letter to the "New York World" in which he lauds socialism as the ultimate of civilization and says it will come first in America.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor issued its manifesto this week calling on all affiliated unionists to prepare to put into effect the political plan of Gompers and others to endorse the candidates of political parties only who favor the demands of labor and to sustain the re-election of those who have proven friendly. But Gompers' apparent plan to serve his capitalist patronizers by this effort to keep labor out of its independent political movement—the socialist party—seems to be but playing into the hands of the capitalists. At least the outcome of the experiments in that direction are indicating this. The questions provided for in the plan were put to J. H. Dunbar, socialist candidate for governor of Vermont, and were answered so ably and the position of the socialist party as the world's labor party were shown so clearly that the unions of Vermont have since endorsed the socialist candidates. In St. Louis, the Trades and Labor assembly have chosen to support the socialist party as the true labor party, while the "Seaman's Journal," an able trade union journal of San Francisco, has turned against the fake labor union party of San Francisco charging the latter with political corruption and subservience to capitalistic interests. So far the socialists are the gainers from the Gompers' political game.

We believe, if the socialists will follow the example of Dunbar, and answer the questions simply strongly, clearly and courteously instead of taking the repellent and antagonistic stand certain rabid or fanatic elements have taken in the past, that the cause of socialist education will be advanced, the moral position of the party will be strengthened, and while we cannot hope that these endorsements will amount to much on election day, they are at least a letting down of the bars for future educational work.

The national secretary reports that Haywood's nomination is leading to a great revival in Colorado as is evidenced by hundreds of letters pouring into state headquarters.

At the recent convention of the papermakers of Dayton the delegates who were socialists brought in a resolution permitting political discussion in the local unions. It was carried in the face of an adverse committee report.

valiant female "home guard," I fail to see wherein they have a right to keep the women who do desire citizenship from enjoying that privilege. This attempt to foist the blame of keeping women in political bondage upon the women themselves, is a cowardly and purile thing and is worthy only of a capitalist editor. Men are in full political control and they are to blame not only for women's insubordination but also for those contemptible organizations, such as the "home guard" of Oregon.

To say that women should not be free because they do not desire freedom, is to say that because their minds are enslaved they have no right to freedom. The mentally enslaved have always opposed freedom, but higher considerations always demand it.

International

The Russian Crisis.

To those who have watched the situation in Russia for the last week it is clear the expected armed uprising is here. We may look for events of colossal magnitude the next few weeks. The Czar and the autocracy confronted by the increasing power of the parliamentary assembly and the revolution, have precipitated the revolution upon the theory that it will be more easily crushed now, than if allowed to further develop. On July 21, 1906 a day that will be memorable in history, the Russian Duma was dissolved by the order of the Czar and Russia threw aside the sham of political pretense for the uncertainty of the gun, the torch and the dynamite. The week has been memorable for the seething turmoil of preparation leading logically to this colossal event. Press dispatches tell of the parliamentary groups campaigning in their respective localities in anticipation of the event July 16 and the organization of the landlords to protect their estates; July 17, first legislative act of the Duma, appropriation of \$7,500,000 for famine relief; attempt on the life of the Grand Duke; the entire province of Veronezh, 725 miles square in revolt; police of St. Petersburg on strike; July 19, the burning of the city of Syron; devastation of the province of Babrovo; July 20, St. Petersburg filled with troops; vote on a parliamentary address to the people defeated showing that the center party of moderation had either gone over to revolution or reaction and leaving these two irreconcilable forces face to face in the Duma; July 21, dissolution of the Duma by order of the Czar; July 22, the re-convening of the parliament, over 200 strong, in Viborg, Finland, to discuss the steps to take in the presence of the crisis.

While these great events were hurrying Russia into the sweep of armed revolution, international events connected with the lurid tragedy about to be enacted drew the attention of the world. The British government was about to make a naval demonstration on the Baltic when the action of the valiant little fighting group of socialists and laborites in parliament so aroused public opinion that the scheme was given up.

Press dispatches claim that the emperors of Germany and Austria met this week in Vienna and agreed to lend their armies to the crushing of the Russian uprising, providing the Czar would give up Poland. It is claimed that nothing except this event and the fact that the autocracy of Russia has received financial backing from some source could account for its latest bold stroke in inviting conflict.

It is impossible to give any idea of the comparative strengths of the giant foes in the impending death-grapple as no one knows just how far revolution and socialism has penetrated the army or how far the peasants may be led by the revolutionary proletariat and the revolting intellectuals into actual constructive revolution; but there can be no doubt but that the struggle means the beginning of the great revolution of this century which will usher in world-wide socialism.

The revolution breaks out just while the socialists are holding an inter-parliamentary conference in London, and the action imputed to the sovereigns of Austria and Germany indicate how close the Russian revolution is to the world-revolution that is to bring socialism.

London, July 18.—In connection with the meeting of the socialist and labor inter-parliamentary committee here this week, a demonstration was held in Hyde park this evening to express sympathy with the Russian revolution. The audience was extremely cosmopolitan, and among it were scattered hundreds of police and detectives who were thus afforded an opportunity of securing descriptions of many supposed enemies of society.

There was much disappointment at the non-appearance of Deputy Jaures, the French socialist, and Herr Bebel, the leader of the socialists in the German parliament. But British labor leaders and M. Anikin, of the Russian parliament, succeeded in arousing much enthusiasm. A majority of the audience were Russian refugees.—Press Dispatch.

London, July 17.—The general congress of socialist inter-parliamentary committees opened here today. The first action of the congress was to expell the newspapermen, the foreign delegates, fearing that detailed reports of the proceedings would bring them unpleasantly to the notice of their governments.

The general purpose seems to be to attempt to unify the action of the socialists in the various parliaments.—Press Dispatch.

Seven socialists have been returned to the Australian parliament by the labor party in Tasmania in place the former four.

OUR INEVITABLE COMPETITION WITH YELLOW LABOR.

In the conversion of the Far East into a hive of factories swarming with cheap Mongolian labor, Japan, in my judgment, has inaugurated a new economic movement, no less important to the world than was the introduction of labor-saving machinery, and even more revolutionary than that iconoclastic innovation because no nation can compete with these yellow wage earners.

But before dealing with this startling transformation which now threatens much of the foreign commerce of both America and Europe, I wish to call attention to our present unsuccess abroad and to the indication that we would not secure the trade of the far Pacific, even if Japan were not ready with a new element of competition.

With sturdy optimism we ignore our commercial failures in the Far East and look upon an occasional emergency cargo as the beginning of a permanent trade. Japan, for example, was compelled to march to war in American shoes, but we forget that when it returns to the paths of peace it will go barefoot. It is equally idle to dwell upon the colossal commerce of the China of to-morrow. Japan will take care of that, as the official Japanese proclamation reproduced below, attests. When our trade commissioners complete the humiliating chapter of our South American defeat, it will doubtless be in order to tell the story of our exclusion from the opportunity of the Orient. The foreign trade of the south amounts to \$1,000,000,000 a year. It has passed to the Old World, whose antiquated methods we deride! The foreign commerce of Oceania and the Pacific countries of Asia amounts to \$3,000,000,000 per annum, and is passing to Japan, whose invasions we applaud!

The department of Finance at Tokio has officially made the following announcement:

Our trade doubled decennially during the twenty years from 1868 to 1888, and septennially after the latter year; if the same rate is maintained hereafter, the value of trade will reach "Our trade doubled decennially during 1,060,000,000 (six hundred million dollars) in 1909. Moreover, the completion of the Panama Canal will stimulate our trade with North America, open a new era for our trade with South America, especially with Brazil and the Argentine Republic, and not improbably enable us to find for our merchandise new markets on the West coast of Africa.

Again, as many railroads are now under construction in the interior of China with a view of tapping her inexhaustible wealth, our commercial relations with her in our position as her close neighbor will, with the exploitation of her natural resources, become more intimate than ever."

To back up this program Japan starts in with 9,000 factories employing half a million Mongolian operatives thriving on wages that would drive American labor to pauperism and crime.

These oriental factories will turn out a "Hoe" press, a "Baldwin" locomotive, a "Cramp" battle ship, or an "Edison" phonograph with such fidelity to the niceties of construction that the American makers cannot detect the counterfeit form the original. With what will pass for our own goods, Japan will be able to undersell us in any foreign market. The Sunrise Kingdom has patented all our inventions and appropriated our most popular trade-marks, and brings legal action against American firms attempting to "infringe" upon the stolen right of Japanese manufacturers to multiply and sell "Yankee" wares.

Reprehensible as we may consider Japan's appropriation of the good name of our merchandise, it may be the beginning of a great movement in world traffic. For the first time in economic history Japan has employed in mechanical industries a labor that is both cheap and efficient. The cheap-labor scares of the past have been merely political arguments. Many economists are convinced that American labor, when its product is measured, is the cheapest among western nations. The workmen of the United States turn out in our big factories as great a volume of goods as do all the employees of Germany, France, and the United Kingdom combined. In Japan and China, however, there is a labor with which neither America or Europe could or would compete. Official figures from Tokio show that shipbuilders in the 230 private shipyards of the empire receive fifty-nine sen a day; the highest rate of wages paid in all Japan to artisans. In textile industries, the maximum rate is twenty-nine sen.

Of this labor, cheap, skillful, diligent and thrifty, the Orient possesses a monopoly. With this army of Oriental wage-earners who cannot only rival the best operatives of America and Europe, but who can save money out of their beggarly pay, the Mongolian manufacturer embarks upon the search for foreign goods which he can mark down beyond the reach of any possible competition. The introduction of labor-saving machinery was revolutionary, turning thousands of men out of employment and causing the abandonment of hundreds of hand-made in-

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

Men's Suits, \$16.50 and \$18, now - - - \$9.35
Monarch Shirts, \$1.50 values, now - - - 95c
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dustries. Yet the problem in all countries was the same. All could install engines and dynamos and belts. With the readjustment to the new order, tens of thousands of new people were employed and products were amazingly multiplied. The original thousands of men made idle were frequently forced under prolonged protest into other callings, and individual capital was often irreparably lost. This is one of the tragedies of all economic progress, people as a whole benefited by the evolution. The prosperity of the world was vastly increased.

With the transformation of the Orient into a modern factory center employing yellow millions of men at wages which estop competition, America and other western nations are confronted by the new element in manufacturing industry. The only way to compete successfully, would be to force the wages in Europe and the United States down to the level of those in Japan, and that would plunge obviously the whole Occident into anarchy. It is obvious that the Japanese menace to the cotton industry of the southern states of America now dependent upon the Chinese trade is but the preliminary phase of an industrial catastrophe which may overtake every manufacturing plant in this country which now or in the future bases its prosperity on foreign trade.—Harold Boleo in Booklover's Magazine.

Local Garnet was the first to respond to the day-wage-fund. It sends \$6 on this account and \$3 for the convention. Comrades, get this matter before the locals. Remember the one-day-wage fund which is going to enable us to carry on the biggest campaign ever.

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Meets every Monday night in the class room on the Fifth Floor of the Osweley Block. Free discussion. Everybody invited.

LOCAL HELENA, of the Socialist Party

Meets every Wednesday evening at the Workers Club. JOSEPH BAUER, Secretary